Air India Employees Self-contributory Pension Fund

640. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India employees self contributory pension fund has been depleted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any changes were made in the Scheme adverse to the interest of the employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On making periodical review of the fund position, it was observed that till October 2001, the total contribution collected from the employees was Rs. 101.22 crore. Out of this cost of the annuities purchased for 1852 retired/deceased employees was Rs. 61.84 crore and actual contribution made by 1852 retired/deceased employees was 21 crores. Since the benefit extended to the retired employees was disproportionate compared to the contribution made by the individual retired employees, the Board of Trustees after reviewing the fund position of the Trust decided to amend the nature of the scheme from "Benefit Defined" to "Contribution Defined" as the benefits under a Self Contributory Scheme have to be necessarily commensurate with the contributions made by the members. The amendment seeks to correct the disproportionately high pension benefits offered under the original scheme and bring it on par with the level of contribution made by each member. Under the proposed amendment, no member will receive pension in excess of the return on his own contribution. The excess pension already enjoyed by the retired/deceased employees is not sought to be recovered.

Delay in international project near Bangalore

641. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the growth of Karnataka State